

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

EB-11 FRB-02 H-03 INR-10 INT-08 L-03 LAB-06 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 AID-20 CIEP-02 SS-15 STR-08

TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /170 W

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R 211019Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2639

INFO USEC BRUSSELS 8333

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

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PASS AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECON

SUBJECT: L'AFFAIRE CHIRAC (CONTINUED)

REF: PARIS (2) 21850 (B) 22081

SUMMARY: REVERBERATIONS CAUSED BY FRENCH MINAG CHIRAC'S NOW CELEBRATED INTERVIEW IN AUGUST 13 LE POINT (REFTEL A) CONTINUE UNABATED, NOTABLY WITH INTERVIEWS OF LARDINOIS AND ERTL. END SUMMARY.

1. FOLLOWING UP HIS QUESTIONING OF UK MINAG GODBER (REFTEL B), FIGARO CORRESPONDENT JEAN DOMENGE OBTAINED AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW WITH PIERRE LARDINOIS, FORMER DUTCH MINAG AND CURRENT VICE-UNCLASSIFIED

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PRESIDENT OF EC COMMISSION FOR AGRICULTURE. DOMENGE INTERVIEW

APPEARED IN FIGARO'S AUGUST 18-19 WEEKEND EDITION AND WAS HEADLINED WITH LARDINOIS QUOTE, "MONSIEUR CHIRAC IS TOO NATIONALIST AND NOT COMMUNITY-MINDED ENOUGH".

LE POINT, WHOSE INTERVIEW OF CHIRAC BY CHRISTINE CALLET KICKED OFF THE CURRENT DEBATE, GOT BACK INTO THE ACT WITH INTERVIEWS OF FRG MINAG ERTL AND FRG STATE SECRETARY FOR EUROPEAN AFFAIRS APEL APPEARING IN AUGUST 20 ISSUE UNDER APEL QUOTE, "MONSIEUR CHIRAC EXAGGERATES". DETAILS FOLLOW.

2. LARDINOIS INTERVIEW: REMINDED THAT HIS ACTIONS ALONG WITH THOSE OF SOAMES AND CHEYSSON RE EC SUGAR POLICY HAD BEEN QUESTIONED BY CHIRAC, LARDINOIS TOOK TOTAL RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE COMMISSION'S SUGAR PROPOSAL, STAGIN HIS COLLEAGUES HAD ONLY SLIGHTLY MODIFIED IT. HE SAID IF CHIRAC READ IT HE WOULD SEE DIMINUTION OF PRODUCTION WAS CALLED FOR ONLY IN CASE OF A SURPLUS SUCH AS HAD BEEN EXPERIENCED SEVERAL YEARS AGO. HIS PROPOSAL WAS IN THE INTEREST OF EUROPE; FRANCE AS WELL AS THE UK.

3. RE SUGAR PRODUCTION DMENGE CALLED ATTENTION TO GODBER'S REMARKS THAT ANY INCREASE IN EUROPEAN PRODUCTION WOULD ESPECIALLY BENEFIT BRITISH GROWERS. LARDINOIS TOOK EXCEPTION TO THIS BELIEF, EXPLAINING THAT SLIGHT INCREASE IN BRITISH PRODUCTION IN CATEGORY OF QUOTA "B" I.E. AT REDUCED PRICE, HAD BEEN PROPOSED; WHEREAS FOR FRANCE AND BENELUX, PROPOSALS FOR AN INCREASE CONCERNED QUOTA "A" FOR WHICH FULL PRICE IS 100 PERCENT GUARANTEED. IN LARDINOIS'S VIEW, BRITAIN DOES NOT BENEFIT FROM THIS GUARANTEE. HOWEVER, LARDINOIS EMPHASIZED THE COMMISSION HAD MADE A PROPOSAL WHICH HE WOULD DEFEND AND THE MINISTERS WOULD NEGOTIATE, AN ACTION HE BELIEVED CHIRAC AND GODBER HAD ALREADY UNDERTAKEN BY THEIR INTERVIEWS,

4. REPLYING TO THE COMMENT THAT CHIRAC HAD NOT BEEN SPARING IN HIS CRITICISM OF HIM AND HIS ASSOCIATES, LARDINOIS STATED SUCH CRITICISMS WERE MISPLACED. HE EXPRESSED INDIGNATION THAT THE COMMISSION'S OBJECTIVITY WOULD BE CALLED INTO QUESTION, DECLARING HE WAS ON THE COMMISSION NOT TO DEFEND HIS COUNTRY'S INTERESTS BUT THOSE OF THE CAP. REFUSING TO ACCEPT CHIRAC'S NATIONALISTICALLY ORIENTED CRITICISMS OF CHEYSSON, LARDINOIS CHARACTERIZED THEM AS "VERY DANGEROUS" FOR EUROPE.

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5. DOMENGE ASKED LARDINOIS FOR HIS OPINION RE THE NECESSITY FOR CAP REFORM IN ORDER TO FACILITATE NIXON ROUND NEGOTIATIONS. LARDINOIS ANSWERED THAT EC POLICY COULD BE IMPROVED BUT ONLY FOR INTERNAL REASONS AND NOT AS A FUNCTION OF THE NEGOTIATIONS. HE GAVE THIS AS HIS VIEW AND THAT OF THE GREAT MAJORITY OF HIS COLLEAGUES, ADDING IF CAP CHANGES WERE ACCEPTABLE INTERNATIONALLY SO MUCH

THE BETTER. EMPHASIZING THE ESSENTIAL SOUNDNESS OF THE CAP,
LARDINOIS ADMITTED ROOM FOR IMPROVEMENT AND EXPRESSED HOPE THIS
COULD BE DONE IN TWO MONTHS.

6. LARDINOIS WAS ASKED IF CAP IMPROVEMENT WOULD TAKE THE FORM OF
FREEZING AGRICULTURAL PRICES. HE REPLIED NEGATIVELY, STATING
INSTEAD THAT PRICE RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN SURPLUS COMMODITIES
SUCH AS BUTTER AND WHEAT AND DEFICIT COMMODITIES SUCH AS OTHER
CEREALS AND MEAT MUST BE MODIFIED IN ORDER TO BRING DOWN THE
COST OF THE CAP. IN THIS WAY, IN HIS VIEW, THE REVENUES OF ALL
AND NOT JUST SOME WOULD BE IMPROVED.

7. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE "SOYA AFFAIRE", LARDINOIS STATED HIS
BELIEF THAT ALL WERE IN AGREEMENT TO STIMULATE PROTEIN PRODUCTION
IN EUROPE AND HE PERSONALLY HAD NOTHING AGAINST PRODUCTION OF
SOME SOYA, BEARING IN MIND THAT EUROPEAN PRODUCTION WOULD AL-
WAYS BE LIMITED BY CLIMATE. HE FELT THE QUESTION SHOULD BE
STUDIED CALMLY AND NOT IN A STATE OF PANIC.

8. CHIRAC HAD DESCRIBED LARDINOIS AS GOING HAT IN HAND TO WASHINGTON
TO BEG FOR SOYA. ASKED FOR HIS THOUGHTS RE THIS DESCRIPTION,
LARDINOIS REPLIED HE'D NEVER SEEN A EUROPEAN USE SUCH DIRECT AND EVE

BRUTAL LANGUAGE. HE COMMENTED FURTHER THAT A WEEK AFTER HIS
TRIP THE SOYA PRICE HAD DROPPED BY HALF. HE SAID HE HAD SPOKEN
FRANKLY WITH THE AMERICANS AND TOLD THEM THE SOYA EMBARGO COULD
NOT BE ACCEPTED, CONCLUDING THAT CHIRAC'S CRITICISMS OF THE TRIP
WERE NOT WELL FOUNDED
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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AGR-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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TAR-02 TRSE-00 USIA-15 PRS-01 OMB-01 RSR-01 /170 W

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R 21019Z AUG 73

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2640
INFO USED BRUSSELS 8334
AMEMBASSY BONN 985
AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
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PASS AGRICULTURE

AND CHIRAC HIMSELF HAD AGREED ON IT BEFOREHAND.

9. ASKED TO COMMENT ON THE GERMAN PROPOSAL THAT THE EC COUNTRIES SHOULD RETURN TO NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL POLICIES, LARDINOIS STATED IT EMANATED FROM GERMAN EXPERTS AND NOT THE FRG. HE DECLARED SIMPLY THAT SUCH A PROPOSAL WAS UNACCEPTABLE, BEING NOT ONLY VERY DANGEROUS FOR THE CAP BUT FOR THE COMMON MARKET ITSELF.

10. DOMENGE CONCLUDED THE INTERVIEW BY ASKED LARDINOIS IF HE BELIEVED CHIRAC HAD MADE HIMSELF THE SPOKESMAN FOR THE ELYSEE. LARDINOIS TURNED THE QUESTION ASIDE BY ADMITTING IN THIS RESPECT TO A LITTLE NERVOUSNESS IN ALL COUNTRIES FOR WHICH THERE MIGHT BE SOME REASON. LARDINOIS CONTINUED THAT THE CAP IS NECESSARY FOR EUROPE AND IS NOT IN DANGER. HE SAID THE FRENCH AND CHIRAC
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MUST KNOW THEY ARE NOT ALONE IN EUROPE. HE CONCLUDED THAT WHEN THERE WERE REAL PROBLEMS THE CAP MUST BE DEFENDED WITH A MORE EUROPEAN SPIRIT AND THAT CHIRAC IS TRULY A LITTLE TOO NATIONALISTIC AND NOT COMMUNITY-MINDED ENOUGH.

11. THE ERTL AND APEL INTERVIEWS BY ANDRE ANCIAN IN LE POINT ON AUGUST 20 CONSTITUTED IN SOME MEASURE A COUNTERATTACK BY THE FRG TO CHIRAC'S BOMBAST. FRG MINAG ERTL SAID HIS SURPRISE AT CHIRAC'S REMARKS WAS ALL THE MORE PROFOUND AS CHIRAC WHILE IN BONN HAD EXPRESSED AN IDENTITY OF VIEWS ON THE PURSUIT OF COMMON MARKET AGRICULTURE, EVEN IN THE PRESENCE OF BRANDT. FURTHERMORE, ACCORDING TO ERTL, CHIRAC HAD THANKED HIM FOR HIS SUGGESTIONS FOR COMPROMISE DURING THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING IN BRUSSELS ON SOYA PROBLEMS WHEN FRANCE HAD BECOME ISOLATED.

12. ERTL WAS ASKED TO GIVE HIS VIEWS ON THE RECENT REPORT BY GERMAN AGRICULTURAL EXPERTS WHICH RECOMMENDED GREATER INDEPENDENCE FOR THE FRG IN AGRICULTURAL POLICY. HE RESPONDED THAT THE INDEPENDENT EXPERTS HAD BY NO MEANS RECOMMENDED A BREAK WITH

THE CAP BUT HAD SOUGHT, DUE TO MONETARY FLUCTUATIONS, A PROVISIONARY SOLUTION WHILE AWAITING THE REALIZATION OF ECONOMIC AND MONETARY UNION. MORE PRECISELY, COMMENTED ERTL, THE GOAL OF THIS SOLUTION WAS TO PREVENT THE AGRICULTURE OF COUNTRIES WHICH HAD HAD TO REVALUE THEIR CURRENCY FROM BEING ALONE IN THE LONG RUN IN SUFFERING THE CONSEQUENCES OF THE REVALUATION. ERTL CONTINUED THAT ONE'S DESIRES SHOULD NOT BE TAKEN FOR REALITY AND THAT MONETARY UNION WILL NOT BE REALIZED IF ONLY CERTAIN COUNTRIES MAKE SACRIFICES.

13. ASKED BLUNTLY IF THE FRG INTENDS SOONER OR LATER TO QUIT THE CAP, ERTL RIPOSTED THAT THE FRG DELEGATION HAS ALWAYS DECLARED THAT THE FUNDAMENTAL PRINCIPLES OF THE CAP WERE NOT IN QUESTION; THESE PRINCIPLES ARE: COMMUNITY PREFERENCE, FREE CIRCULATION OF MERCHANDISE AND COMMON FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY. ERTL EMPHASIZED THE EFFICACY OF ANALYZING WHAT HAD WORKED AND WHAT HAD NOT IN ORDER TO DEDUCE FUTURE CONSEQUENCES. THE OBJECTIVE, HE SAID, MUST BE TO HELP AGRICULTURAL POPULATIONS REACH AN EQUIVALENT LEVEL IN THE WHOLE COMMUNITY. ERTL CONCLUDED THAT TO SAY THE FRG DESIRED TO QUIT THE CAP CONSTITUTED A "MALEVOLENT IMPUTATION".

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14. FRG STATE SECRETARY APEL STATED HIS BELIEF THAT CHIRAC SPOKE ONLY FOR HIMSELF AND CERTAINLY EXAGGERATED. AT THE TIME OF THE LAST FRANCO-GERMAN CONSULTATION IN BONN, THE TWO GOVERNMENTS, ACCORDING TO APEL, WERE IN AGREEMENT ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION POLICY WITH ONLY SLIGHT NORMAL DIVERGENCES IN VIEWPOINT. APEL EXPRESSED ASTONISHMENT AT CHIRAC'S LACK OF CIRCUMSPECTION.

15. CORRESPONDENT ANCIAN COMMENTED THAT AT PRESENT THE "GREEN EUROPE" POLICY WAS THE ONLY ONE IN THE COMMUNITY BUT THAT THE FRG APPEARED TO CALL IT INTO QUESTION. WAS THAT NOT MOVING AWAY FROM EUROPE? APEL REPLIED NEGATIVELY, REITERATING THAT THE FRG HAS OFTEN STATED ITS ADHERENCE TO THE PRINCIPLES AND ORIENTATION OF THE CAP, NOW AND FOR THE FUTURE. HE DECLARED THAT THE FRG SOUGHT ONLY INDISPENSABLE MODIFICATIONS AND MENTIONED THE EXAMPLE OF SURPLUS BUTTER. HE CLAIMED ITS EXPORT TO THE SOVIET UNION HAD COST THE FRG A BILLION MARKS AND SUCH THINGS MUST NOT HAPPEN IN THE FUTURE. HE EMPHASIZED THE FRG DID NOT WISH TO MODIFY THE CAP FROM TOP TO BOTTOM BUT ONLY TO MAKE CERTAIN UNACCEPTABLE EXCESSES IMPOSSIBLE.

16. REPLYING TO THE LAST QUESTION OF WHETHER THERE WAS A FRANCO-GERMAN CRISIS, APEL REPLIED, "NO, AND THERE WILL NOT BE ONE*" HE SAID IF THERE WERE PROBLEMS, THEY WERE BETWEEN FRANCE AND THE EC NOT FRANCE AND GERMANY. HE WENT ON TO SAY IT WOULD BE POLITICALLY DISASTROUS TO ISOLATE FRANCE AND CONCLUDED THAT WITH GOOD WILL ON BOTH SIDES AND FEWER BRUSQUE DECLARATIONS, EVERYTHING

WOULD BE EASY.

17. THERE HAS BEEN PROLIFIC FRENCH PRESS ATTENTION TO "L'AFFAIRE CHIRAC". FOR EXAMPLE LE MONDE OF AUGUST 21 PICKED UP LE POINT'S INTERVIEW OF ERTL AND APEL AND CARRIED GREAT PART OF IT UNDER HEADLINE, DECLARED FRG SPOKESMAN". THE PRESS IN GENERAL MAKES POINT THAT WHAT LIES BEHIND THE CHIRAC INTERVIEW IS POMPIDOU'S OBSESSIVE FEAR THAT BRANDT IS LEADING GERMANY TOWARD "NEUTRALISM".
STONE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
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Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 6
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: PARIS (2) 21850 (B) 22081
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kellerpr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <29-Aug-2001 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <15-Jan-2002 by kellerpr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: L'AFFAIRE CHIRAC (CONTINUED)
TAGS: ECON, (CHIRAC, JACQUES)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005